

# SIMPLY SOCCER

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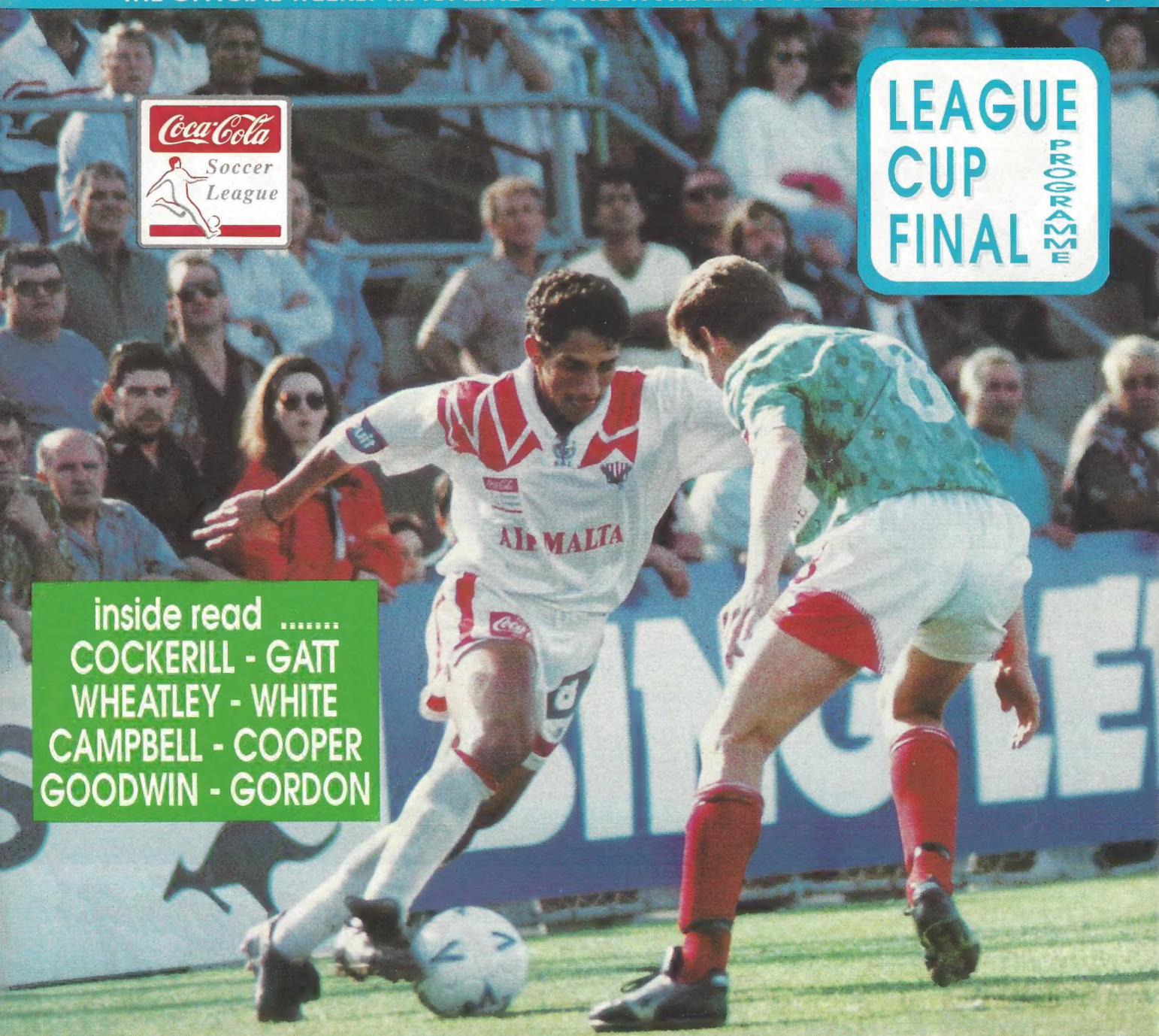
THE OFFICIAL WEEKLY MAGAZINE OF THE AUSTRALIAN SOCCER FEDERATION

\$2



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CUP  
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inside read .....  
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# WHAT A WAY TO START A SEASON!

**What a great week in Aussie soccer – and the league season hasn't even got under way yet!**

First, the Argentinians pay respect to the fabulous *Coca-Cola* Socceroos, in particular fallen idol Diego Maradona who publicly stated that the Australians will be no pushover. Maradona selected out overseas-based stars Frank Farina and Aurelio Vidmar for a special mention and he has obviously done his homework.

Farina hasn't had a great time of it since his return from the Canada series and has struggled to re-capture his form for his French club, Strasbourg. But across the English Channel big Davie Mitchell is in great demand. Despite the fact that his close-season move to Turkish strugglers Altay turned sour Mitchell, now back in London, is still as popular as ever. Both Glasgow Rangers and Celtic have offered the Aussie striker a contract – as have a host of other clubs.

And another striker in the news is Carl Veart who is now back in Adelaide after a successful trial with Everton. Everton offered the flame haired goal grabber a deal but couldn't match his club's valuation – a cool one million bucks! That would have smashed the previous Australian record set by Ned Zelic's transfer to Borussia Dortmund just over a year ago. Everton will likely regret their short-sightedness and, judging by Veart's form in the Cup last weekend against Sydney United, he could be back in the headlines again – sooner rather than later.

This weekend sees the final of the League Cup, a much maligned tournament which seems to have found some favour at last in its pre-season format. Judging by the crowds at the quarter finals it is also a hit with the fans.

So, next week the league gets under way with the usual batch of new players, a few imports, a sprinkling of youngsters ready to break through into the senior ranks, and the minimum of changes at club official level. With all that is going for soccer, this could just be the year that it starts to break into the limelight with the general sporting public. As for the media, that is another story. It seems that not one of our Sydney sporting journalists has remembered the debt of gratitude that Sydney has to offer the ASF and the organising committee of the World Youth Cup for the brilliance of Australia '93.

George Dick and your backroom staff, stand up and take a bow. If it wasn't for their efforts in presenting one of the best FIFA junior tournaments of all time then we would be crying in our beer over a loss to China which looked odds on to win the Games.

After all the Americans had a far poorer case for winning the World Cup than the Chinese did for the Olympics. The likelihood of a proper American professional soccer league being set up after 1994 (one of the pre-conditions of their bid) is as remote as their chance of winning the cup itself.

The reason that the Yanks got the World Cup was simple – FIFA was desperate for the commercial involvement of the major American corporations. And the desire of those same corporations to boost their profits in a new Chinese market was the factor behind Peking's favouritism.

So they didn't win it..... Too bad. Thanks, George. We've got the Games because of the friends Australia '93 won, now we want to turn up trumps again and knock the stuffing out of Argentina.

Now wouldn't that be a great way to start the season!



# WE NEED MITCH

## Simply Soccer's John White looks at the World Cup showdown with Argentina - and throws the Davie Mitchell hat into the ring as the one player that must kick off against the former World Champions

Australia goes into the next stage of the World Cup against Argentina badly needing to win the home leg at the Sydney Football Stadium if it is to have any realistic chance of advancing to the finals next June.

Coach Eddie Thomson has already shown that he is prepared to bring back as many players from overseas as it will take to do the job.

But one of those players was almost forgotten in the two game tie against Canada,

until his timely appearance as a second half substitute set up the goal that took the tie into an overtime shoot-out.

Davie Mitchell was as vital to Australia's cause then as he is now. He is the sort of player, the old fashioned British-style knock-about centre forward, that the South Americans loathe.

Mitchell will never claim to be the most skilful ball player in the world but his talents have nevertheless taken him to three of Europe's top clubs

- Glasgow Rangers, Feyenoord and Eintracht Frankfurt, as well as spells with Chelsea and Swindon Town (both of which he helped steer back into the top division).

"Mitchell had a great spell when he came on against Canada," said one member of the Australian back room staff.

"No-one was surprised with his dedication, he is that sort of player, but we were all stunned - and delighted - when his introduction had such an immediate effect.

"You might say that it was Big Mitch who kept the tie alive for us to win in the shoot out."

The Canadians didn't have any answer to his bustling style - except for Mike Sweeney whose method of stopping the robust Mitchell was to head-butt him in an off-the-ball incident which the referee and match officials chose not to see.

But even that most callous and despicable type of action didn't stop Mitch from powering his way through the rest of the game.

He isn't the type of player for the faint hearted - but he is the type of player we need to lead the attack.

Mitchell would be perfect up front as a target man with the more skilful Slater picking up the service balls from his aggressive style of play.

And with Frank Farina missing from the October 31st showdown due to suspension, Mitchell's inclusion is even more vital.

What we don't need is namby-pamby play which doesn't produce any goals.

The Australian media has been guilty in the past of slugging the British style of game, preferring the silkier ball style of the South Americans.

But the plain truth of the situation is that we just can't match the Argentinians for ball skills - but then they have shown nothing in their recent games which suggests that they could contain Mitchell.

Against Colombia their defence wilted whenever Asprilla danced through the Argentine backline.

And the brilliant little Columbian is powder puff compared to Australia's own Davie Mitchell.

An Australia victory against Argentina would rock the football world, it would be the impossible dream, and the man who could do just that has already proven his worth many times over - now he is just waiting for the call.



**STILL JUMPING:** bloodied and battered, Davie Mitchell still outjumped everyone to head forward another Australian attack.

**PHOTOGRAPHS:** Anton Cermak, courtesy Australian Soccer Federation

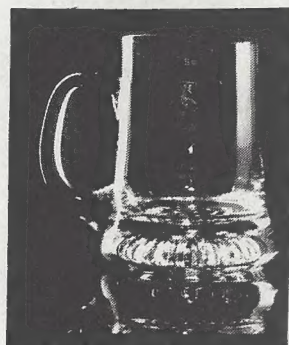




**THE WOUNDED PIRATE: Davie Mitchell after the game with a deliriously happy Les Scheinflug**



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## Marconi signs former Serie A star

Marconi's new Italian import Andrea Icardi (pictured below) is a former team-mate of Ermanno Pelucchi at Verona. The 31-year-old midfielder, who has over 200 Serie A games to his credit, played along side such stars as Robert Prytz and Dragan Stojkovic while at Verona and is certain to be a big hit in the CCSL.



## Clarkson Sings Free

Dave Clarkson, who had a successful spell in English football eighteen months ago, has been given a 'free transfer' by an ASF tribunal over payment irregularities by his CCSL club, Heidelberg United.

Clarkson has joined the Sing Tao club of Hong Kong. Last season he played as a guest for Happy Valley in the British Crown colony after having starred for Heidelberg.

But Clarkson was unhappy about irregularities concerning his wage payment with the Melbourne club and lodged a successful protest

with the ASF.

The English born player was one of the best on Heidelberg's books last season and was listed as the club's full time Development Officer for the new season.

The loss will be a blow to Heidelberg's chances of making the play-offs.

"I need to secure my financial future," said Clarkson.

"I can understand that the Bergers will be upset with this but I have to be paid regularly."

The ASF tribunal ruled Heidelberg in breach of contract.



## Boot Room Goss

At least four prominent CCSL clubs are getting set to issue a tough policy with their players over off-season loan spells in the State League. The move follows John Waddell's unfortunate broken ankle playing for Sunshine George Cross. Waddell will probably miss four or five Morwell games, but its brought to the boil a tricky situation which has had clubs and players arguing since summer soccer was introduced.

Sydney Olympic President Harry Michaels is deadly serious about trying to make his club a major force in Aussie soccer. The extent of that determination was underlined during the winter when he is rumoured to have made attempts to sign England international CHRIS WADDLE from Sheffield Wednesday. No-one at the club is willing to confirm this story - at least not for publication. The rumour still persists that the Sydney perennial 'sleeping giants' will land a BIG NAME this season.

Press play over a supposed rift between Frank Arok and Ian Gray couldn't be further off the mark - or at least that's what the Bossley Park 'Parrot' tells me. Gray is supposedly miffed that Arok won't guarantee him a place as sweeper this season - but everyone knows that Iggy's only chance of making the World Cup squad is as a right back. Sweeper? - he hasn't got a hope in hell of displacing Ned Zelic or Milan Ivanovic, Thommo's two options, but he's a good bet (if fully fit) to get a run at right back.

Adelaide City keeper Robbie Zabica has set some sort of a record - he has played for six consecutive seasons with his club WITHOUT MISSING A SINGLE LEAGUE GAME. Come on all you statisticians, come up with something that beats that. If you can produce a better stat then I'll send you a 'mystery prize'.

Watch out for another exodus of Aussie players this season - and to Asia also. My source tells me that Hong Kong and Singapore are two top bets to land some of our senior players - and Perth and Darwin will also start to reverse the player drain with their entries in the Singapore Super League looming up shortly. Some BIG names have been mentioned .....

*the Parrot*



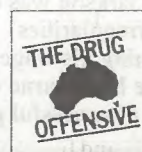
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WHO NEEDS IT?





# The Australian's Ray Gatt talks to **CAPTAIN LOWE**

Two seasons ago David Lowe felt the pain and fear of rejection, and, for the first time in his career was left wondering about his future in a sport that has virtually been his life.

After almost a decade at Marconi-Fairfield - his home away from home - and countless hours and kilometres of travelling from Newcastle to Bossley Park and back four and five times a week, "Lowey" found he was no longer a part of the furniture. It was, he says frankly and with more than a touch of emotion, "easily the worst moment of my career." As he walked out the door for the last time it dawned on him that he was, at the age of 28, on the verge of being one of the forgotten men of Australian soccer.

As the new Coca-Cola Soccer League season dawned, the nuggetty striker with the silky skills and brilliant turn of speed despaired of playing in the League until Parramatta Eagles threw him a lifeline and signed him on loan from Marconi.

Sadly the lifeline was only a short one and barely kept him from drowning. He managed several fleeting appearances in the top grade but he had given away too much start in the preseason and injuries and rising weight proved a constant enemy.

Ever the diplomat, Lowe prefers to forget his days with the Eagles last season. It has never been - and never will be - his style to publicly criticise people.

"Maybe I got a raw deal, maybe I didn't," he says matter-of-factly. "It's over now and a new phase of my career - and life - has started."

Thankfully he has finally found his way back to his roots at Newcastle and is a number of welcome additions to the Newcastle BHP Breakers. With the likes of Darren Stewart, David, John McQuarrie, Graham Jennings and Mark Jones in the squad, the breakers can now say they are the "people's team"... the real Newcastle. Admittedly, things did not look good for Lowe until Bruce Stowell stepped down after two controversy-filled seasons at the club and was replaced by the ever pleasant and popular local, Jim Foley. "I had thought of trying my luck in Asia and Jim came along, Lowe said. "Luckily, I didn't have the contacts to get to Asia and Jim came along to offer me a spot at Highfields Azzurri, where he was coaching in the local competition."

Lowe had a good season and was inspirational in Highfield's 3-0 grand final win in which he scored twice. There was no doubt after that he would end up in the Breakers' colours, especially when Foley was appointed coach.

And, what a welcome back present he provided when, as caretaker captain, he scored in his first official game for the club in a 1-1 first leg League Cup draw against his old club, Marconi.

"Getting the captaincy was a real surprise, but that was outdone by the goal," Lowe admitted.

With the burden of having to travel to Sydney for training finally lifted, it is not surprising Lowe, now 30, has a new zest for the game. He is even looking much fitter.

"I am happy with the way



David Lowe

things have worked out so far, especially my fitness," he said. "Mind you, I am no Greg Welch (well known triathlete) and I've still got some way to go, but I'm getting better."

Lowe is content in more ways

than one these days.

His wife Leanne presented him with a baby boy - Alex David - in May and both parents are over the moon.

"It is a big change to your way of life' but I wouldn't want it any other way, believe me. Fatherhood is great, though you do have your moments," he says.

Mind you, Lowe can still find some time to devote to his other love - the punt."you have to have some form of relaxation," He quips.

Back on the field, he is confident the Breakers, despite all the off-field dramas concerning their future in the League, will cause their fair share of surprises.

"there is a nice feeling about the team," he says. "there's plenty of spirit and friendship and we boast a strong and competent squad.

"Our defence looks good and you could not ask for any better strikers than Rod Brown and Warren Spink."

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# THE TOP MONEY TRANSFERS

Listed are all of the big money transfers involving Australian players since May 1993. Overseas clubs are marked \*.

\$250,000	David Seal (Sydney Olympic - Aalst*)
\$200,000	Ernie Tapai (Stoke City* - Estoril*, Portugal)
\$180,000	Vlado Bozinoski (Ipswich Town* - Pacos Ferreira*)
\$180,000	Anthony Carbone (Perth Italia - Nottingham Forest*)
\$150,000	Milan Blagojevic ( - Heerenveen*)
\$70,000	John Aloisi (Adelaide City - Antwerp*)
\$50,000	Eddie Krncevic (Royal Standard* - Aalst*)
\$45,000	John Markovski (Preston - Adelaide City)
\$40,000	Michael Reda (Parramatta - Adelaide City)
\$40,000	Mike Smith (Eastern Suburbs - Marconi)
\$36,000	Davie Mitchell (Swindon Town* - Altay, Turkey*)
\$30,000	George Slifkas (Heidelberg-West Adelaide)
\$30,000	Angie Goutzioulis (Heidelberg - South Melbourne)
\$24,000	Kris Trajanovski (Preston - Sydney Olympic)
\$20,000	Joe Caleta (Sydney United - Sydney Olympic)
\$15,300	Glen Gwynne (Brisbane United - Parramatta)
\$15,000	Goran Lozanovski (Preston - Adelaide City)
\$15,000	Andrew Zinni (Preston - Melbourne BU)
\$10,000	Jeff Olver (Heidelberg Utd - Bulleen)



**NOT XMAS YET:** Carl Veart, who looks likely to line up again with Adelaide City after English giants Everton refused to match the Aussie club's valuation of \$1 million.

## Transfer News

With the new league season just ten days away – and the Cup Final on this weekend – these are the most up to date players' lists of your favourite clubs. All last season's appearances and goals are recorded for your information along with the comings and goings – plus a look at CCSL new boys, Melbourne Brunswick United.

### ADELAIDE CITY

**Retained Players** (with last season's appearances & goals in brackets)

Ross ALOISI (7/0)  
Joe BARBARO (11/2)  
Robert CSOBOTH (17-)  
Milan IVANOVIC (25-)  
Stevie MAXWELL (21/3)  
Sergio MELTA (21/1)  
Damian MORI (26/10)  
Joe MULLEN (24/4)  
Daniel SABATINO (0/0)  
Paul SHILLABEER (19-)  
Carlo TALLADIRA (18/1)  
Alex TOBIN (25/1)  
Carl VEART (26/12)  
Tony VIDMAR (8-)  
Robert ZABICA (26-)

#### Gains

CARENO  
Goran LOZANOVSKI (Preston)  
John MARINO (local)  
John MARKOVSKI (Adelaide City)  
Michael REDA (Eagles)  
**Losses**(with new club shown in brackets)  
John ALOISI (Antwerp)  
Mike BROOKS (freed)  
Robert CSOBOTH (Pecsi\*)  
Mike GRBEVSKI (St George)  
Nemanja OBRADOVIC (Heidelberg United)  
Charlie VILLANI (retired)

### BRISBANE

**Retained Players**

John BROWN (20/1)  
Sean CRANNEY (0)  
Troy CRANNEY (21/3)  
Bradley DITTON (11/1)  
Rob FARROW (10-)  
Stein GRODUM (16-)  
Darren HILLIER (0)  
Alan HUNTER (18/4)  
Steve JACKSON (6-) (8/1 with Preston)

Clayton KOCH (15/4)

Frank PIMBLETT (16/6)

Chris SLATER (22/3)

#### Gains

Warren ALLEN (Brisbane Lions)  
Shaun BESTER (South Africa)  
Clint BOULTON (AIS)  
Alan EVANS (New Zealand, North Star)  
Darren HILLIER (Taringa)  
Andy LEES (Taringa)  
Eddie LEES (Taringa)  
Brian MacNICOL (Heidelberg)  
Kevin MEACOCK (local)  
Gary PHILIPS (Sydney Olympic)  
Andy STOWELL (Brisbane Lions)  
Reynald TEMARI (Tahiti)  
Craig WILLIAMS (former player)  
Danny WRIGHT (South Melbourne)

#### Losses

Mark BATTISTIN (freed)  
Steve BULLOCK (freed - UK)  
Ibro CAHUT (freed)  
Kieron COOPER (freed)  
Mark GREER (Freed)  
Glenn GWYNNE (Parramatta Eagles)  
Danny HALLIGAN (freed)  
Brenley JEFFERD (freed)  
Brent READ (freed)  
Mirko RUNJE (freed)  
Joey STIPANCIC (freed)  
Danny STOWERS (freed)

### HEIDELBERG UTD

**Retained Players**

Peter BORDIGNON (16-)  
Gary BRATTEN (24-)  
Mike CHATZITRIFONAS (15-)  
George GEORGIADIS (15-)  
Danny GNJIDIC (14/5)



# Transfer News ...

David HODGSON (10-)  
Joe PALATSIDES (25/4)  
Alan SCOTT (21-)  
Phil STUBBINS (24/4)  
Peter TIKTIKAKIS (3-)  
**Gains**  
Harris MICHEIL (South Melbourne)  
Michael MICHALAKOPOULOS (South Melbourne)  
Goran NEGIC (Red Star\*)  
Roman NIKOLIC (Dynamo Dresden)  
Nemanja OBRADOVIC (12- Adelaide City)

## Losses

David CLARKSON (Sing Tao\*)  
Ally DICK (South Africa)  
Angie GOUTZIOULIS (South Melbourne)  
Derek HUNTER (Scotland - end of visa)  
Eddie KUZMAN (Fawkner)  
Jeff OLVER (Bulleen)  
Con SIDRIVANIS (freed)  
George SLIFKAS (West Adelaide)  
Brian MacNICHOL (Brisbane)

## MARCONI-FAIRFIELD

### Retained

Matthew BINGLEY (25/2)  
Luke CASSERLEY (8-)  
Steve CORICA (24/3)  
Gary van EGMOND (20/2)  
Ian GRAY (21/2)  
Andy HARPER (25/15)  
Darren IOCCA (7/2)  
Glenn JOHNSON (23/8)  
Mike JOLEVSKI (23/3)  
Blagoja KULESKI (25/2)  
Tommy McCULLOCH (14/4)  
Fabio MACOLINO (5-)  
Javier MANCINO (2-)  
Jean Paul de MARIGNY (19/2)  
Ermanno PELUCCHI (14-)  
Tony PEZZANO (6/0)  
Mark SCHWARZER (20-)  
Ufuk TALAY (6/1)  
Kimon TALIADOROS (26/11)

### Gains

Jon ANGELUCCI (AIS, from Wollongong City)

Andrea ICARDI (Verona\*)  
Mike SMITH (Wollongong City on loan from Eastern Suburbs)

### Losses

Anthony BONDINI (Melbourne BU)  
Steve CALDERAN (retired)  
Steve GEORGAKIS (released)  
Graeme PAINE (freed)

## MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

### Retained

Fausto de AMICIS (18/1)  
Josip BACAK (4-)  
Joe BISKIC (19/1)  
Bogdan BONK (15/2)  
Branko BULJEBASIC (9-)  
Adrian CERVINSKI (12/4)  
Vaughan COVENEY (23/4)  
Damir GRGANOVIC (4-)  
Steve HORVAT (24/2)  
Frank JURIC (0)  
David MILLER (18-)  
Ollie PONDELJAK (23/9)  
Joe RADOS (5-)  
Theo SELEMIDIS (22-)  
Mark SILIC (22-)  
Mark TALAJIC (12-)  
Vlado VANIS (24-)  
Mark VIDUKA (4/2)  
Damian VOJTEK (0/0)

### Gains

David CERVINSKI (North Geelong)  
Ante JURIC (Canberra Deakin)  
Ante KOVACEVIC (St Albans)  
Ante RADIC (St Albans)  
Zoran TRAJCEVSKI (Preston)

### Losses

Bogdan BONK (North Geelong)  
George HANNAH (released)  
Chris JACKSON (Fawkner)  
Steve JERBIC (North Geelong)  
Ivan KELIC (Sydney Olympic)

## MORWELL FALCONS

### Retained

Russell BLACK (15/1)  
Claudio CANOSA (13- plus 6- with West Adelaide)

and the CCSL new boys

## MELBOURNE BRUNSWICK UNITED

### Retained from Victorian State League

Robbie BRIAN  
BUDINI  
Robert FERLA  
IACOVITTI  
Sean LANE  
Archie McGEACHEY  
Steve MARLEY  
Michael MAZZINI  
Steve SMITH

### Players Returned From On-Loan Spells

Sash BECVINOVSKI (Morwell Falcons)  
Paul DELLA ROCCA (Morwell Falcons)

### Signed

Anthony BONDINI (Marconi)  
Arthur KIRISHIAN (Ukraine)  
Alexander KUZMANOVIC (Radnicki Nis)  
Robert MANZELLA  
John PILLEMER (Leichhardt Tigers)  
Robert TOMBOLATO (Morwell Falcons)  
Mike UTTING (Sunshine George Cross)  
Andrew ZINNI (Preston)



Anthony CASSAR (19-)  
Paul DONNELLY (16-)  
Justin GERI (7-)  
Paul HARRIS (19-)  
Gary McMULLEN (7/1)  
Zoran MARKOVSKI (20/1)  
Steve MAUTONE (26-)  
Jorge NILO (1-)  
Juan NILO (2-)  
Adrian PENDER (18-)  
Mark POULOS (1-)  
Sonny SEVIN (10-)  
John UPTON (6-)  
John WADDELL (26/2)

### Gains

Lachlan ARMSTRONG (Dundee\*)  
Brian BOTHWELL (Fawkner)  
Joe GAGETTI (Canberra Deakin)  
Shaun PARTON (Preston)  
Vas TRPCEVSKI (Preston)  
Carlo VILLANI (Canberra Deakin)

### Losses

Sash BECVINOVSKI (Melbourne BUSC after loan period)  
Stephane JEE (freed)  
Paul Della ROCCA (Melbourne BUSC after loan period)

### period)

Andy THORPE (England)  
Robert TOMBOLATO (Melbourne BUSC)  
Billy WRIGHT (Retired)

## NEWCASTLE BREAKERS

### Retained

Rod BROWN (20/4)  
Troy HALPIN (3-)  
Ralph MAIER (26-)  
Nick MEREDITH (22/3)  
Robert NAUMOV (25-)  
Darren NORTHAM (1-)  
Jason POLAK (26/4)  
Andrew ROBERTS (25-)  
Warren SPINK (23/16)  
Darren STEWART (23/4)  
Mark WILSON (2-0)

### Gains

Troy BELLAMY (AIS)  
Clint GOSLING (Olympic)  
Graham JENNINGS (Adamstown Rosbeud)  
Mark JONES (Marconi)  
David LOWE (Eagles - on loan from Marconi)  
John McQUARRIE (Adamstown)  
Robbie MIDDLEBY (AIS)  
Adam SANDERSON



# Transfer News . . . Transfer News

Damian SMITH (both Adamstown Rosbeud)  
Howard TREDINNICK (Highfields Azzurri)  
**Losses**  
Mike GIBSON (Olympic)  
John KOCH (Eagles)  
Andy KOCZKA (released)  
Brad MALONEY  
Craig MOFFITT (Eagles)  
Glen SPROD

## PARRAMATTA EAGLES

### Retained

Zoki ADIOSKI (9-)  
Adam CIANTAR (21-)  
Jason FALZON (14-)  
Paul FOSTER (22/4)  
Aytek GENC (23/6)  
Gerry GOMEZ (25/6)  
Geoff GUNNING (23/1)  
Peter GUNNING (26-)  
Tony JOSEVSKI (3-)  
Gabriel MENDEZ (20/2)  
Scott O'DONNELL (20/1)  
Nick ORLIC (1-)  
Brendan RENAUD (0)  
Marshall SOPER (24/9)  
Paul SOURIS (21-)

### Gains

Walter ARDONE (Olympic)  
Glenn GWYNNE (Brisbane)  
Glen DONEGAL (Rushden, England)  
John KOCH (Newcastle)  
Craig MOFFITT (Newcastle)  
Joe SPITERI (Albion - Vic State League)

### Losses

Peter KATHOLOS (retired)  
David LOWE (Newcastle)  
Michael REDA (Adelaide)  
Robbie WHEATLEY (retired)

## SOUTH MELBOURNE

### Retained

Dean ANASTASIADIS (19-)  
Francis AWARITEFE (25/18)  
Steve BLAIR (13/2)  
Con BOUTSIANIS (26/11)  
Mehmet DURAKOVIC (23-)  
Gary HASLER (21/1)  
Alex KIRATZOGLOU (3-)  
Bruce McLAREN (7-)  
Kevin MUSCAT (14-)  
Mike PETERSEN (14/1)

Steve TASIOS (22/2)  
Paul TRIMBOLI (26/8)  
Peter TSOLAKIS (22/6)  
John VERIKAKIS (3-)  
Michael VALKANIS (3-)  
Paul WADE (25/1)  
**Gains**  
Ike ALAGIOZIDIS (Panserraikos, Greece)  
Angie GOUTZIOULIS (Heidelberg)  
Mike UTTING (Sunshine)  
**Losses**  
Haris MICHEIL (Heidelberg)  
Michael MICHALAKOPOULOS (Heidelberg)  
Angie POSTECOGLOU (freed)  
Danny WRIGHT (Brisbane)

## SYDNEY OLYMPIC

### Retained

Elias AUGERINOS (23-)  
David BARRETT (26-)  
Andrew BERNAL (17/1)  
Pablo CARDOZO (21/3)  
Steve HICKMAN (7-)  
Robbie IRONSIDE (26-)  
Vas KALOGERACOS (1-)  
Grant LEE (22/1)  
Gary MEIER (10-)  
Jose MENDEZ (3-)  
Branko MILOSEVIC (21-)  
Paul PANSON (2-)  
Derek POIMER (6/1)  
George SORRAS (13/1)  
Tony SPYRIDAKOS (15-)  
Peter TSEKENIS (12-)

### Gains

Joe CALETA (Sydney Utd)  
Mike GIBSON (Newcastle)  
Ivan KELIC (Knights)  
Kris TRAJANOVSKI (Preston)

### Losses

Zlatko ARAMBASIC (Mechelen, returned from loan spell)  
Walter ARDONE (Eagles)  
Tony DROUZAS (freed)  
Clint GOSLING (Newcastle)  
Peter KATHOLOS (retired)  
Gary PHILIPS (Brisbane)  
David SEAL (Aalst, Belgium)

## SYDNEY UNITED

### Retained

Mark BABIC  
Tony FRANKEN (15-)

John GIBSON (26/7)  
Eric HRISTODOULOU (22/1)  
Mario JERMEN (8/2)  
Mirko JURILJ (1-)  
Zeljko KALAC (11/0)  
Tony KRSLOVIC (24/10)  
Velimir KUPRESAK (24/1)  
Manis LAMOND (16/3)  
Tom MILICEVIC (20/1)  
Ante MILICIC (6-)  
Ante MORIC (5-)  
Ivan PETKOVIC (20/1)  
Tony POPOVIC (24/2)  
Ante RUMORA (21-)  
Robbie STANTON (23-)  
Tony TOPIC (1-)  
Matthew ZEC (22/1)  
Ante ZIZIC (6-)  
**Gains**  
Klaus OKON (Eagles)  
David ZDRILIC (St George)  
**Losses**  
Joe CALETA (Sydney Olympic)

## WEST ADELAIDE

### Retained

AUDSA (1-)  
Raymond BLAIR (22/4)  
Peter BLAZINCIC (12-)  
Mark BRAZZALE (22/6)  
Eddie BRISCOE (10/2)  
Greg BROWN (26/10)  
Gus CERRO (17/1 plus 4/1 with Marconi)  
Hugo GIMENEZ (21/1)  
Brenton HIERN (3-)  
Robbie HOOKER (25/2)  
Jose IRIARTE (25/14)  
Jim KERAMADIS (13-)  
Stan LAZARIDIS (26/2)  
Greg MILLS (22-)  
Brett PULLEN (6-)  
Robbie SLAGER (26-)  
Frank TIBALDI (2-)  
Jim TSEKINIS (6-)

### Gains

Tony GIANNASCA (Canberra Deakin)  
George SLIFKAS (19- Heidelberg)  
Marc WINGELL (Perth Italia on loan)  
**Losses**  
Claudio CANOSA (Morwell Falcons)  
Alex McPHERSON (Blacktown City)  
Mario PERUCHO (Uruguay)



Pedro RICOY (Wollongong)

## WOLLONGONG CITY

### Retained

Anthony AVELLINO (0)  
Grant BARD (20/2)  
Tom BAZDARIC (0)  
Mineo BONITEG (14-)  
Matthew BOURKE (25-)  
Paul DEE (1-)  
Sasho DIMOVSKI (6/2)  
Steve FORSHAW (13-)  
Sean FREESTONE (15-)  
David GREEN (23/1)  
Matthew HORSLEY (26-)  
Brett HUGHES (20-)  
Steve KRISHNA (2-)  
Richard LLOYD (22/6)  
Paul McFADDEN (24/1)  
Miro MIKULIC (0)  
Mike O'SHEA (24/2)  
David SKEEN  
David THOMAS (0/0)  
Mark TROTH (2-)  
Dale WHITE (25/4)  
Shane WILLIAMS (0/0)  
Charlie YANKOS (22/5)

### Gains

Scott BAILLIE (Bankstown)  
Freddie KRUYIS (Brisbane Lions)  
Lupcjo NAUMOVSKI (FC Vardar\*)  
Donal O'BRIEN (Cork City\*)  
Scott OLLERENSHAW (Walsall\*)  
Pedro RICOY (West Adelaide)  
**Losses**  
John FILAN (on loan from St George, to Cambridge United, England)  
David GREEN (freed)  
Tony LAUS (NZ)  
Jock MORLANDO (retired)  
Terry PATALIS (released)  
Mike SMITH (Marconi)



# ... and the Coaches .....

## ADELAIDE CITY

Zoran Matic (now beginning his ninth straight season, and one which he says will be his last)

## BRISBANE

Bruce Stowell (the former Queensland State coach replaced last season's man, Miron Bleiberg, during the off-season in a boardroom re-shuffle)

## HEIDELBERG UNITED

Dragan Sekularac (brought back to Australia last season following the resignation of Gary Cole. Gary McDowall had led the club for a few games as caretaker prior to Sekularac's appointment)

## MARCONI-FAIRFIELD

Frank Arok (the ex-Socceroo boss is starting the second season of what most media pundits see as a long term relationship at Bossley Park)

## MELBOURNE BRUNSWICK UNITED

John Margaritis (former CCSL Coach of the Year, and the man who led the club to its previous CCSL Championship. Replaces Billy Rogers who coached the club in the Victorian Premier league but whose services were not required for the CCSL)

## MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

Mirko Bazic (Croatian coach coming to Australia for his first CCSL stint. Replaces Branko Culina, who replaced Kenny Murphy - an early season casualty last year)

## MORWELL FALCONS

Bobby McLachlan (the likeable Scot is in his second CCSL season with the Falcons after having guided them out of the the Victorian Premier League)

## NEWCASTLE BHP BREAKERS

Jim Foley (replaces Bruce Stowell who quit during the off-season amid speculation over the very future of the debt ridden club)

## PARRAMATTA EAGLES

Rale Rasic (in the final year of a two season contract. Succeeded Raul Blanco who moved to West Adelaide at the start of last season)

## SOUTH MELBOURNE

Jim Pyrgolios (replaced Ferenc Puskas at the start of last season after having served as the Galloping Major's assistant)

## SYDNEY OLYMPIC

Berti Mariani (replaced Peter Raskopoulos mid-way through last term. One of the major 'signings' of new President Harry Michaels)

## SYDNEY UNITED

Manfred Schaefer (in his second season with newly re-named Sydney United after taking over from the resigned Mick Hickman just two weeks before the opening fixture of last season)

## WEST ADELAIDE

Raul Blanco - despite announcing his resignation from the club he is back at the helm for his second season

## WOLLONGONG CITY WOLVES

Dave Ratcliffe (coached the Wolves to a finals' spot in each of his previous two years at Brandon Park)

# When The Whistle Blows

with  
Alan Gordon

Some time ago Les Murray wrote in an article published in *Soccer Australia* that the ASF should seriously consider purchasing the St George Stadium which it could then establish as its own headquarters as well as home of the Socceroos.

I must admit that, at the time, I thought the idea ludicrous. How could our cash-strapped ASF buy even a lucky bag, let alone take on the financial responsibility of running a stadium.

But the more I think of it the more I actually like Les's idea.

Maybe it is not so much a question of whether the ASF could afford such an expense but one of 'could that ever be a possibility'?

The advantages of a permanent base are obvious, including having grass actually cut to suit a ball skills game; not having to accept the cut-up turf which the Socceroos are forced to play on after the latest dose of Tina Turner - disguised - simply the best - has churned up the SFS; having a permanent office space which is also on site to facilitate any logistical support of the Socceroos; having a 20,000 all seated stadium which is close to the airport, city and suburbs.

There are numerous disadvantages, mostly financial, but also of another nature if you happen to live in Brisbane, Melbourne, Adelaide or indeed any where but Sydney.

But it is also time to face the plain reality that Sydney is the logical home of the Australian national football team.

Could the ASF stage enough games to make such a venture a financial success?

Well, kick off with the Grand Final, the Cup Final, four or five international games for the Socceroos, ditto for the Jozeys, Olyroos, and Young Socceroos and you already have a reasonable programme.

Maybe the NSWFS would like to add its own Grand Final and Cup Final as well, plus games featuring the SoccerBlues.

Toss in the occasional visit by overseas clubs and that would probably give about 25 games a year. That is enough to make any ground financially successful.

But consider also the venue as an alternative to the SFS or the entertainment centre as a medium seating concert venue. In short, the ASF could have an absolute gold mine.

At present the stadium is on a long term lease held by the St George soccer club.

That isn't a problem - or at least not one which is insurmountable.

The big problem is the attitude that we couldn't do *that* - surely it is too difficult.

It isn't.

Appoint a sub committee to set it up, engage a top stadium manager to run it, and sit back and reap the benefits that such enterprise would unquestionably bring.

Les, you are right - maybe it's time to do it.



# QUESTION MARK ON LEVEL OF PLAY

Sydney Morning  
Herald's  
**MICHAEL  
COCKERILL**  
reports

The new Coca-Cola Soccer League season has begun, albeit at the pre-season stage with the League Cup rounds, and I must confess to being concerned at the level of play we can expect to see over the next seven months. And in this I am not alone.

The truth is, whether the administration cares to admit it or not, that the standard of the NSL has declined sharply

over the past five years. Ask many long-time observers - including coaches, former players and the media - and most will agree with the gloomy assessment. One former Socceroo skipper even claims that the standard of play is down at least 50 percent from what it was in early 1980s.

A product which is deteriorating is, of course, much harder to sell. The punters - those precious fans who pay good money to watch the NSL (often enduring archaic conditions) - are in the best position to make a judgement and the signs were there last season that after an initial boost with the switch to summer soccer, attendances

across the league have begun to level out.

It may not be the doomsday scenario just yet, but clearly the public are not about to be fooled by what they see. Only the most committed fans will remain happy to watch their favourite teams produce a gradually declining standard of play. Clearly, the slide needs to be arrested, and soon.

So, why has the NSL lost its lustre? To my mind, there are two obvious reasons. Firstly, the exodus of our most talented players abroad has laid the cupboard bare. As a relatively small soccer nation, Australia simply cannot keep replacing the Farinas, Zelics, Slaters, Okon, Vidmars and Bosnichs at the required rate.

The second contributing factor, and one which has been given less attention, is the lack of innovation within the coaching fraternity. For this we can blame club officials, who for reasons best known to themselves continue to appoint the same old coaches to the plum jobs.

The end result is too many teams displaying a tired, stale, tactical approach while players with ability fail to receive enough individual attention. The NSL desperately needs the spark which would undoubtedly be provided by a newer, hungrier, generation of young coaches. The quickest, and most sensible, answer to arresting the decline is something many insiders have been promoting for the past few years - cut the number of teams in the competition back to 10, and when the time is right start the rebuilding process again. Given the dearth of talent in

the country it has become abundantly clear that the NSL cannot support 14 teams - there are simply not enough good players to go around. This is an argument which has been put to the Australian Soccer Federation repeatedly over the past two years, but unfortunately the federation has lacked the will to take the necessary steps. And so while the international programme goes from strength to strength, the grass roots (i.e. the NSL) continue to wither on the vine.

Two teams each in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide, and a one club each from Wollongong, Brisbane, Perth and Newcastle would provide the right formula to distil the available playing talent. Of further benefit would be the concentration of financial resources and ground facilities to provide the league with ten strong, professionally-run clubs rather than a preponderance of struggling clubs in a 14-team competition.

These may be the hard solution to a difficult problem, but who can seriously argue that the NSL in its current guise is making genuine progress? The reality is that a competition which 15 years ago was a thriving shop window for the domestic game has become a pale shadow of its former self.

At a time when Australian soccer is arguably at an all-time high thanks to the deeds of our various national teams, it is vital that the club competition offers a strong foundation.

Otherwise the claims that the sport is moving forward will ultimately prove an illusion, and a depressing one at that.



## GRANVILLE & DISTRICTS SOCCER FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (INC)

### 1994 REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS TRIALS

#### JUNIOR LEAGUE

Under 11 & Under 12 - Fridays October 15, 22, 29,  
November 5

#### YOUTH LEAGUE

Under 13 - Mondays October 11, 18, 25, November 1

Under 14 - Tuesdays October 12, 19, 26, November 2

Under 15 - Wednesdays October 13, 20, 27, November  
3

Under 16 - Thursdays October 14, 21, 28 November 4

#### LADIES TEAMS

Under 15 - All Age - Mondays October 11, 18, 25,  
November 1

ALL TRIALS TO BE HELD AT

RYDALMERE PARK

Victoria Road

RYDALMERE

Commencing at 6 pm

Further Information:

- Junior and Youth League - John Comito 899 7657

- Ladies Rep. Team - Dianne Cheong 632 8247



# No More Matic Magic?

by  
Alan Gordon

Zoran Matic is a man of few words, and even fewer smiles – and that is the biggest understatement in CCSL history.

Yet he goes into the new season with Adelaide City for the ninth time as boss, a record in the CCSL which is unmatched and unlikely to be ever beaten.

Matic says that this is "his last", yet he is far from being what anyone could call a veteran.

Before coming to Australia in 1973, Matic had played at the top level in Yugoslavia. After playing with Beograd



Zoran Matic

in the South Australian State League, he joined Adelaide City for the start of the newly born National League in 1977.

In that first season Adelaide City finished fourth – with Scots import Dixie Deans setting the league alight with his goalscoring feats.

The following year, and Matic's last as a CCSL player, the club slumped to finish in the lower mid table.

Matic had notched up 38 appearances and even scored a rare goal from his central defensive position.

He moved into youth team coaching with City, then drifted back to his old club Beograd before he was given the chance to coach in the CCSL at the end of 1985.

Matic's first season was unbelievable, with Adelaide City winning its first ever CCSL Championship.

Since then Matic has kept



Adelaide City being presented with the QANTAS Pacific Cup after beating New Zealand champions, Mount Wellington, 4-1

his club at the forefront of CCSL success even to the extent that the name of the club is gaining prominence in Europe.

That is largely because of the overseas transfer of players like the Vidmar brothers, John Aloisi, Ernie Tapai and also now Carl Veart.

"It is time," is Matic's answer to questions about his 'retirement'.

Yet, City fans are also quick to remember that last season Matic chose to ignore a reported lure from South Melbourne to stay in the South Australian capital.

A further championship this season would see Matic equal Eddie Thomson's Sydney

City record of three wins.

With that under his belt, and still yet to turn fifty years of age, the Adelaide faithful are confident that Matic will yet change his mind.

## THE MATIC YEARS League positions, Grand Final and Cup successes

1986 3rd\* – Champion  
1987 10th, QANTAS Cup  
1988 6th  
1989 Cup Winners  
1990 4th  
1991 3rd  
1992 4th – Champion, Cup  
Winners  
1993 3rd – Runners Up

\* winners of Regional  
Conference before going on to  
win inter conference Grand  
Final.



City captain Alex Tobin with the League Cup

# Happy Birthday

to all CCSL stars who celebrate their birthdays  
over the next week. Cheers!

13th Mehmet Durakovic (Souths)

18th Darren Elkin (Olympic)

19th Grant Lee (Olympic)





# The Arok Years

Since he first arrived in Australia in 1969 from Yugoslavia, Frank Arok has always set a standard that other coaches had to struggle to follow.

It seemed inevitable that he would become mentor to the Socceroos (as he did) and then last year, just when it seemed as if Arok was to go into Asia to seek full-time coaching, he finally got the call from Bossley Park.

"I suppose it was inevitable," Arok said at the time. And maybe it was, one of Australia's top three clubs linking up with a man who had proven himself as a coach, a soccer tactician par excellence, a motivator, and an extraordinary developed of young talent.

In the early years at St George, Arok went about moulding perhaps the finest club team that this country has ever seen, then, in later years he instigated a youth policy which produced some highly talented young players.

The tragedy of it all is that the former glamour club never really enjoyed the full fruits of Arok's toil.

At Marconi last season the guru successfully blooded Macolino, Talay and Iocca into the rough and tumble of CCSL football. Now, with a combined total of 20+ appearances between them, they are ready to make a more valuable contribution to his plan for domestic soccer dominance. Arok did this by giving them a whisper of first team football, but a sustained run long enough to make them feel part of it all.

"He does what no-one else does," says a Bossley Park insider. "Frank makes them part of the team, then when he thinks they have done enough he gives them a rest. But they are better players for that experience."

"Success at Marconi doesn't mean winning games," said Arok. With the amount of money this club spends we must win trophies. It is simple, if I don't bring that sort of success, then I am gone."

Last year, Arok's yardstick was to qualify for the play offs, anything less would have seen his self-acknowledged early departure from the club.

He went a giant step better, winning the Grand Final after totally annihilating a deleted South Melbourne on the way.

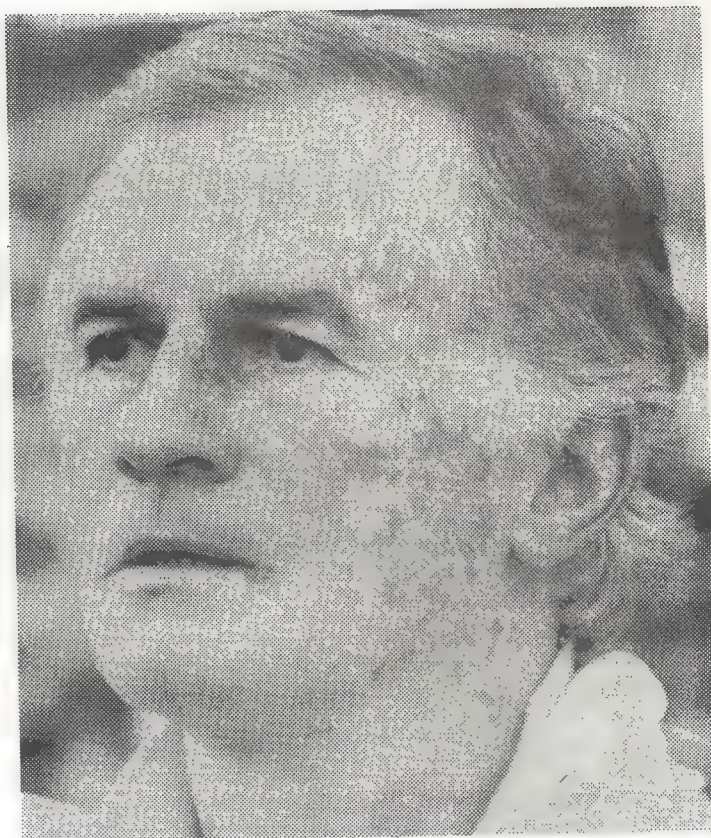
But this year the pressure is really on.

Marconi have lashed out into the transfer market to strengthen their squad with a couple of class players. The arrival of Smith from Wollongong, the Ghanaian Banini and the signing of Andrea Icardi, another ex Italian Serie A player from Verona, pushes the Bossley Parkers into a different league.

This season they will be expected to again finish in the top two places in the League, and then go on to at least make a Grand Final appearance. With a squad such as the one under Arok's control anything less is realistically a failure.

Ask Arok if he is under pressure - he'll surely give you one of those famous half grin - half smirks that are his hallmark, the sign that he knows that he is *always* under pressure, as he has continually set himself higher standards throughout the Arok Years.

*Bruce Campbell*



## Falcons Swoop for Canberra Pair

Morwell Falcons have made a double raid on top NSW Super League side Canberra Deakin with the signings of Carlo Villani and Joe Galletti.

Villani, a cousin of former *Coca-Cola* Socceroo and Adelaide City ace Charlie Villani, made a big impact as a striker in his first season with the Canberra club.

Galletti is a left sided midfielder who was signed on the recommendation of Canberra Deakin club captain, Andrew Young, a former player with Falcons' coach Bobby McLachlan during his Green Gully CCSL days.

"I hadn't really seen much of Villani and in the game I came up to assess him he only came on as a sub for the last ten minutes," said McLachlan. "But everything I have heard was good so we went ahead and signed him up. Galletti was a bit of a bonus. He is a good, quality player who I am sure will do a good job for us at the club."

Galletti has earned himself a reputation as a more than useful utility player during his stint with Deakin. A member of Canberra's brilliant 1990 NSW team, his signing by Morwell brings the total of players from that team who have since played at a higher level to eight.

Canberra's own chances of gaining a CCSL berth seem to be fading with the news of the 'annexing' of Bruce Stadium by the capital's newest sporting challenge, the Canberra Bushrangers baseball team.

Galletti's move also signals an unhappy finale to his career with Canberra which resulted in a heated touchline exchange with the club coach and his eventual buy-out of his own contract.



# CUP FINAL SPECIAL



## A Message From the Chairman



On behalf of the Australian Soccer Federation I would like to welcome everyone to the 1993 League Cup Final.

This, the eighteenth competition, has adopted the format of a pre-season tournament and it would seem that this change has been an unqualified success.

In the past, the National Cup competition has been criticised as being merely a meaningless series of games. At the same time many clubs have complained at the lack of games.

In order to try and serve the best wishes of the Australia soccer public this year's format has been introduced – and by all accounts it has been a success.

That success will allow us to push towards our eventual goal of seeing a truly national event with entries from state league clubs also. It was felt that 1993 was too early to advance to that stage but I believe that we are well on the road to seeing that eventuate, with 1994 looking a strong possibility.

Australian soccer has gone through a tremendous growth period since the great achievements of our Young Socceroos in Portugal in 1991. In the last two years we have seen the *Coca-Cola* Olyroos reach the semi finals of the Barcelona Olympics, the highly successful staging of

Australia '93 in which our *Coca-Cola* Young Socceroos again achieved a semi final placing, the *Coca-Cola* Joeys reach the quarter final stage of the Under 17 World Cup and also the *Coca-Cola* Socceroos ready to face the might of Argentina in the last leg of what has been a long, arduous and expensive route to World Cup finals' qualification.

Because of the success we have enjoyed on the field we have been fortunate enough to gain the continued sponsorship of the *Coca-Cola* system, the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation, Mitre Sports, the Australian Sports Commission, adidas and QANTAS/Australian Airlines.

With this sponsorship we can continue our programme of soccer development which has seen the sport grow to unprecedented heights of popularity.

Today, we are seeing another chapter of success in our domestic scene with the League Cup final.

The final has brought together two of our best teams which will be vying with each other to take out the first major honour of the 1993/94 season.

To both those clubs, and their supporters, I send my best wishes. I would also like to thank everyone involved in Australian soccer for their help and support of this great game, may we all grow together.

I would like to congratulate every player, supporter and club official who has made the 1993 League Cup such a success – and also to offer my congratulations to the winner of today's trophy, may the best team win.

John Constantine AM, OAM  
Chairman  
Australian Soccer Federation

## The Big Guide to the CCSL

Welcome to the first issue of **Big Match** – the official ASF guide to the CCSL.

Each week through the season **Big Match** will list all the fixtures, the scores, scorers and league ladder in the *Coca-Cola* Soccer League and National Cup.

In addition we will list team line-ups for forthcoming fixtures along with coaches comments, predictions and latest betting information.

It's a format that won't be bettered – only copied by other, less imaginative publications.

And **Big Match** is just one reason why *Simply Soccer* is set to become a favourite with players, coaches and fans alike.



**1st LEG**  
**West Adelaide 0**  
**Adelaide City 1**  
 (Mori 75)  
 Hindmarsh Stadium

**2nd LEG**  
**Adelaide City 3**  
 (Mori, Hassell 2)  
**West Adelaide 3**  
 (J Tsekinis, Brown, Hooker)  
 Hindmarsh Stadium

**1st LEG**  
**Melbourne Knights 2**  
 (Viduka 21, De Amicis 80)  
**Sydney United 2**  
 (Gibson 40, Moric 47)  
 Croatian Sports Centre,  
 Melbourne.

**2nd LEG**  
**Sydney United 0**  
**Melbourne Knights 0**  
 Croatian Sports Centre,  
 Sydney.

**1st LEG**  
**South Melbourne 5**  
 (Awaritefe 4, 85 Tasios 67,  
 Trimboli 31, McGeachey og 91)  
**Melbourne BUSC 2**  
 (Smith 10, Lane 72)  
 Middle Park  
**2nd LEG**  
**Melbourne BUSC 2**  
 (Lane 41)  
**South Melbourne 5**  
 (Boutsianis 33, 48, 54, Trimboli  
 51, Awaritefe 86.)  
 Western Oval

**1st LEG**  
**Heidelberg United 1**  
 (Gnjidic 75)  
**Morwell Falcons 2**  
 (Bothwell 58, Armstrong 64)

**2nd LEG**  
**Morwell Falcons 2**  
**Heidelberg United 1**  
 Morwell Faclons Park

# LEAGUE C

## PARRAMATTA EAGLES

Marconi Stadium, Sunday

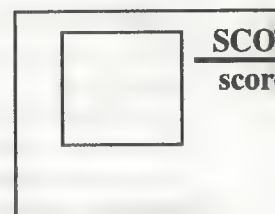
**Colours;**  
 Shirts: White  
 Shorts: White  
 Socks: White

**Coach;**  
 Rale  
 Rasic

**(GK) PETER GUNNING -**  
**ADAM CIANTAR -**  
**GLENN GWYNNE -**  
**GERRY GOMEZ -**  
**CRAIG MOFFITT -**  
**NICK ORLIC -**  
**JOHN KOCH -**  
**GABRIEL MENDEZ -**  
**JASON FALZON -**  
**MARSHALL SOPER -**  
**JOE SPITERI -**  
**GLEN SPROD -**  
**WALTER ARDONE -**  
**ANDREW DOWLING -**  
**ZOKI ADIOSKI -**  
**BRENDAN RENAUD -**  
**(GK) JASON HOLMES -**

### SEMI FINAL

**Parramatta Eagles 2**  
 (Mendez 29, Soper 83)  
**Brisbane 1**  
 (Lees 6)





# CUP FINAL

S v SYDNEY UNITED

October 17, 1993 - 3pm.

- (GK) TONY FRANKEN
- ROBERT STANTON
- VELIMIR KUPRESAK
- TONY POPOVIC
- ERIC HRISTODOULOU
- JOHN GIBSON
- ANTE MORIC
- ANTE MILICIC
- ANTE ZIZIC
- TONY KRSLOVIC
- MARIO JERMEN
- TOM MILICEVIC
- DAVID ZDRILIC
- MATTHEW ZEC
- IVAN PETKOVIC
- KLAUS OKON
- (GK) ZELJKO KALAC

Colours;  
Shirts: Red  
Shorts: White  
Socks: Blue

Coach;  
Manfred  
Schaefer

## SEMI FINAL

Sydney United 1 (5 - 4)

(Krslovic 55)

South Melbourne 1 (4 - 5)

(Goutzioulis 70)

## 1st LEG

Wollongong City 0

Parramatta Eagles 1

(Orlic 85)

Brandon Park

## 2nd LEG

Parramatta Eagles 3

(Falzon 22, Ciantar 41, Gomez 60)

Wollongong City 2

(Lloyd 49, White 65)

Melita Stadium

## 1st LEG

Marconi-Fairfield 1

(Casserley 70)

Newcastle BHP 1

(Lowe 59)

Marconi Stadium

## 2nd LEG

Newcastle BHP 1

(Jennings 14)

Marconi-Fairfield 2

(Bingley 61, Angelucci 71)

Mitre 10 Stadium

## 1st LEG

Brisbane 3

(Wright, A Lees, Slater)

Sydney Olympic 0

## 2nd LEG

Sydney Olympic 1

(Barrett 45)

Brisbane 0

Marconi Stadium

**PARRAMATTA EAGLES 2**

(Soper 5, 89)

**MARCONI-FAIRFIELD 1**

(Talay 30)

Attendance: 1,846

Referee: Peter Spiers

Marconi Stadium

**ADELAIDE CITY 0**

**SYDNEY UNITED 2**

(Jermen 24, )

Attendance: 3,879

Referee: John Santa Isabel

Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide.

**SOUTH MELBOURNE 4**

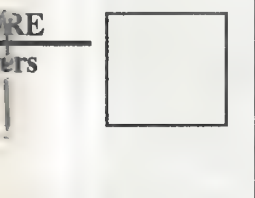
(Trimboli 55, 61 Awaritefe 82, Caonsa o.g. 84)

**MORWELL FALCONS 0**

Attendance: 4,150

Referee: Ziggy Mnich

Middle Park, Melbourne.







# All The Cup Finals



## The Cup – a forerunner to the formation of a National League

In the days before the then Philips National Soccer League was first formed in 1977 the ASF had conducted the Australia Cup. The tournament was based on an all states format (including Northern NSW, the ACT and Western Australia) and varied in its degree of success. Started in 1962, it was surprisingly abandoned in 1968 yet the Australia Cup was seen, along with Australia's qualification for the World Cup finals in 1974, as a seed for the implementation of a national league. Club names in this record have been changed to those presently in existence to avoid any confusion.

### AUSTRALIA CUP (1962–1968)

- 1962 **Yugal 8**  
**St George 1**
- 1963 **Slavia 0**  
**Melbourne Polonia 0**  
Replay;  
**Slavia 2 (3)**  
**Melbourne Polonia 2 (2) a.e.t.**
- 1964 **Sunshine George Cross 3**  
**Apia 2**
- 1965 **Sydney City 1**  
**Apia 1**  
Replay;  
**Sydney City 2**  
**Apia 1**
- 1966 **Apia 2**  
**Sydney City 0**
- 1967 **Melbourne Hungaria 4**  
**Apia 3**
- 1968 **Sydney City 3**  
**Melbourne Hakoah 0**  
1st Leg  
**Sydney City 3**  
**Melbourne Hakoah 1**  
2nd Leg  
**Sydney City won 6–1 on aggregate**

### NATIONAL LEAGUE CUP

- 1977 **Brisbane City 1**  
**Marconi 1**  
**Brisbane City won in a penalty shoot out after extra time.**
- 1978 **Brisbane City 2**  
**Adelaide City 1**
- 1979 **Adelaide City 3**  
**St George 2**
- 1980 **Heidelberg 0**  
**Marconi 0**  
Replay;  
**Marconi 3**  
**Heidelberg 0**
- 1981 **Brisbane Lions 3**  
**West Adelaide 1**

- 1982 **Apia 2**  
**Heidelberg 1**
- 1983 **Sydney Olympic 1**  
**Heidelberg 0**  
Sydney: 1st Leg  
**Sydney Olympic 1**  
**Heidelberg 0**  
Melbourne: 2nd Leg  
**Sydney Olympic won 2–0 on aggregate.**
- 1984 **Newcastle Rosebud 1**  
**Melbourne Knights 0**
- 1985 **Sydney Olympic 2**  
**Preston 1**

- 1986 **Sydney City 3**  
**West Adelaide 2**
- 1987 **Sydney United 1**  
**South Melbourne 0**  
Sydney: 1st Leg  
**South Melbourne 0**  
**Sydney United 1**  
Melbourne: 2nd Leg  
**Sydney United won 2–0 on aggregate.**
- 1988 **Apia 0**  
**Melbourne BU 0**  
**Apia won in a penalty shoot out after extra time.**
- 1989 **Adelaide City 2**  
**Sydney Olympic 0**
- 1990 **South Melbourne 4**  
**Sydney Olympic 1**
- 1991 **Parramatta Eagles 1**  
**Preston 0**
- 1992 **Adelaide City 1**  
**Marconi 0**
- 1993 **Heidelberg 2**  
**Parramatta Eagles 1**

## Changes In The Wind

In its present format, since 1977, the Cup has come in for a wide range of criticism. That first event was held at the end of the 1977 season – although the first round was sandwiched in between the last round of league games and an important international. The final was even controversial with the referee losing control to the extent that a large scale punch up between players spoiled what should have been a gala occasion. 'Survivors' from that game who are still involved in CCSL football are Frank Pimblett (then Brisbane City now Brisbane and pictured right) and Berti Mariani, the Sydney Olympic coach who was then a Marconi player.

Various changes have been tried since 1977 including an attempt to involve state league clubs. But by and large the Cup has seemed to lack something. This year is a testing board for the re-introduction of the Australia Cup which will see state league clubs once again pit their skills against their CCSL big brothers. ASF officials are hopeful that the new format, and a sponsor, will be in place for next season.





# Zec's New Broom

Last season saw Matthew Zec establish himself in Sydney United's young team.

A total of 22 appearances in a run which saw the club pipped for a semi final place only on goal difference would leave many players feeling content – but not Zec.

"I want to be a part of this club," said Zec.

"I've started to realise what football at this level is all about. Maybe in the past I've never been known as a hard trainer, but I'm determined to change all that.

"During the off season I've really put the work in and I've lost 10 kilos in weight. I feel sharper all over. You just can't play football in this league unless you are 100% fit.

"That is one thing that we have all learned from our coach. Manfred Schaefer.

"He is one of the hardest in the business when it comes to fitness training but unless you are fit you lose half a yard of sharpness all over, and there is just no way that you can play top level football."

Zec's renewed dedication is good news for a Sydney United club which is determined to establish a clear youth policy – but bad news for the rest of the CCSL.

The attitude of the former Australian junior international is sweeping through the western Sydney club which is determined to re-capture the high profile that it enjoyed in Australian soccer in the mid '80s.



**MATTHEW ZEC:** his renewed zest for trainings and fitness is part of the new broom which is sweeping through Sydney United

## Sydney United win Multiquip Cup







## Covering sport for *all* Australians

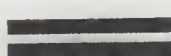
**The Australian Sports Commission is about people.  
Its aim is to enrich the lives of *all* Australians through sport.**

The Commission supports and encourages everyone, from the very young to the very old, recreational athletes to gold medal winners.

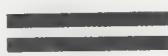
The objectives of the Australian Sports Commission are to lead in the development of sport in Australia, to increase participation and improve performance, skills and opportunities in sport by raising the standard of coaching at all levels.

By providing resources, services and facilities the Commission enables athletes to achieve excellence in sport while furthering their education, vocation and other aspects of their personal development.

More than 6.5 million Australians are registered members of sporting organisations; many more participate informally. The Commission wants each and every one of them to 'Have a Go'.



Australian Sports  
Commission



***Sport for all***



"I'm just getting more and more confused," confesses Morwell coach Bobby McLachlan.

"I've looked at hundreds of players all over the country and there just aren't many class players about.

"You just keep on hoping, hoping that you'll get a pleasant surprise – but I always seem to come away depressed."

McLachlan has spent the last four months scouring the country looking for likely recruits to bolster the Falcons second season stint in the CCSL.

His travels have taken him the full length of the country, right across to Perth and up to Sydney.

"The young players of today just don't work hard enough.

"If you look at this year's Victorian Premier League two of the best players were Josip Biskic and Adrian Pender."

The two veterans both had stand-out seasons and will both likely figure prominently in the CCSL once again.

But the complexities of life in the CCSL are confusing more than McLachlan.

The possibilities of a reduction in the league to ten teams has drawn mixed reaction.

"Oh, no," moans McLachlan.

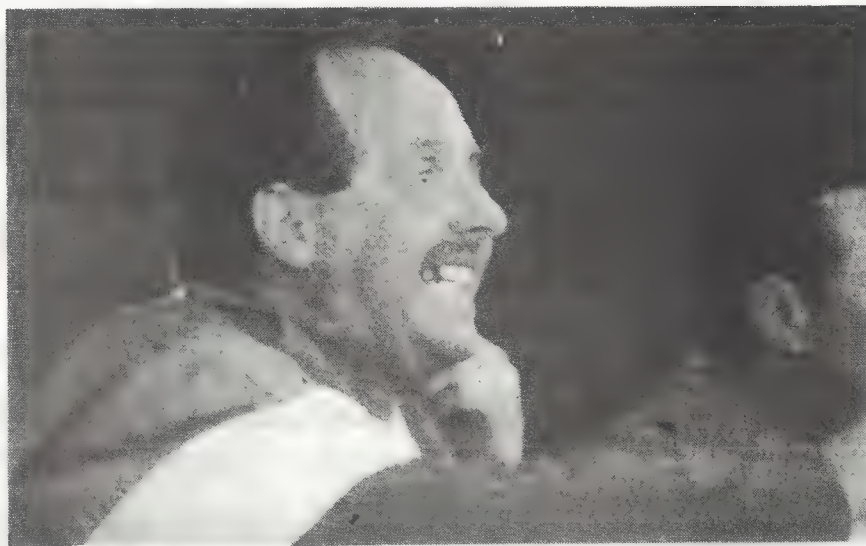
"They couldn't do that, we need the healthy competition that a fourteen team league would bring.

"What would we do, play each other four times?

"Already this season we have played Heidelberg three times – once in the Dockerty Cup and twice in the National Cup. And there are still two league games to go."

McLachlan's point stabs sharply at the claim that a reduction in clubs will see a concentration of talent, pricking the reality that the fans will become bored with seeing the same clubs battle it out continually.

In the meantime coaches



Falcons boss Bobby McLachlan, he's disappointed with the lack of good young talent about in the State Leagues.

# The Banana Boat Song

## McLachlan sings an unhappy tune about the lack of good players coming through the State leagues

like McLachlan must get on with the realities of producing enough talent to sustain a viable challenge in the league.

"Trying to blood young players is just as hard," points out the canny Scot.

"They just don't serve apprenticeships any more. Try blooding a player for a few games and then put him back on the bench, see what happens. They don't want to know."

McLachlan, who was a long serving professional in Britain with Queens Park (an amateur club playing in Scotland's professional league), Partick Thistle, Morton and Millwall, before coming to Australia in the early '60s, has the background to lay down an effective long term youth plan in the La Trobe Valley

with Morwell Falcons.

"That is still in the future, but eventually we will set up our own apprenticeship scheme.

"It is a difficult situation with imports as well, so we really have to look to develop our own talent.

"An average import will set the club back a \$2,000 flight ticket, maybe \$4,000 if the player is married, plus a weekly minimum wage of \$600 a week.

"On top of that there are all the other associated expenses."

But McLachlan is quick to point out the benefits of import visa players.

Last season Morwell brought out Andy Thorpe from Tranmere Rovers and were basing the short term future of the playing side of the club on Thorpe's

experience.

Tragically, Thorpe had to go home before the season really got going for the Falcons but in just a short time his influence on the players was immense.

"In the old days there was a Melbourne club which used to bring out European players by the banana boatload.

"As soon as they got off the ship, they would sell them to other clubs and, really, they ruined it for everybody."

For the five Victorian clubs in the CCSL, the Premier League is an important nursery for future prospects but judging by McLachlan's obvious disappointment in a league which he cites as "disappointing", it may be that Aussie soccer will turn once again to the importation of pros from Europe.

John Glen



# SOCCEROO CAPTAIN'S HEART AWARENESS

*Robert Wheatley reports*

Paul Wade, captain of the Socceroos, "kicked off" St John Save a Life Week national launch in Sydney last Saturday.

And St John Ambulance Australia could hardly have selected a more appropriate sporting representative to focus attention on the vital first and skill of CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) with the slogan NOTHING BEATS A HEART STARTER.

The awareness campaign is intended to help educate Australians about the need to be trained in first aid with skills that can mean the difference between life and death.

For several years Paul Wade has been the heart and soul of South Melbourne's success at his club's headquarters at Middle Park.

With the Socceroos Wade has always been a fine leader and during the launch he spoke about the close links St John volunteers have with most sports and at all major sporting events.

Leading Australian sporting personalities were on hand to lend their support to the promotion and receive some tips on resuscitation.



*Paul Wade with 1 year old daniel White who was resuscitated by his father after almost drowning*



# Iron Lady's Zebras Show Steel

by  
Bruce Campbell

Melbourne BUSC are facing up to their first season back in the big time after a five season gap – with full awareness of what lies ahead.

Soccer is fast becoming an industry in Australia and Melbourne President, Maria Carmigniani, has set aside a budget of \$500,000 to run the club this season.

That sort of money doesn't come in through the turnstiles alone and the former Brunswick United club has gone into the Melbourne business community to get the sort of sponsorship her club needs.

The Zebras have also accepted the old maxim "if you can't beat them, join them" by sharing infrastructure facilities with Aussie Rules club Footscray.

That will see Melbourne sharing Footscray's Western Oval ground over the next few seasons while its own ground at Victoria Street, Brunswick is being developed.

"This is an innovative step in the development of soccer," commented ASF Chief Executive Ian Holmes.

It is also widely believed that the link with Footscray was one of the winning reasons why Melbourne beat rivals Bulleen and Sydney-based Bonnyrigg to grab the highly prized CCSL spot.

Melbourne have also gained an Aussie Rules stalwart as General Manager in Cameron Richardson and he brings in considerable experience from a code

**Carmigniani isn't frightened to make the changes necessary to ensure Melbourne BUSC's survival at the top flight – that's why they call her The Iron Lady of Soccer.**

which sees huge crowds of up to 80,000 regularly attend club matches.

But everything hasn't been plain sailing in Brunswick and Carmigniani has earned criticism as well as praise during her spell as President of the famous club.

The change of name has attracted a lot of comment, much of it unfavourable but it was seen as necessary to gain re-admittance to the top

flight.

"Our children grew up in this country and if the ASF wants name changes for the overall benefit of the game, then we agree with this move," said Carmigniani.

Maria Carmigniani's role in soccer, a sport which is traditionally a male preserve, has seen her likened to former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and the gaining of a Thatcher-like

nickname in 'The Iron Lady of Soccer'.

But in a game where a little bit more than a touch of steel is required to be successful, she has shown considerable fortitude in bringing in new coach, John Margaritis.

The axing of Billy Rogers was one of the most unpopular moves in soccer this year, and rated higher on the Richter scale than the howls when Robbie Zabica was sent off in Australia's crucial World Cup match in Canada.

But Carmigniani saw the move as necessary to consolidate Melbourne's dream of CCSL status.

Time will tell if the change in coach has been successful but along the way Melbourne fans can be sure that their board doesn't shirk a difficult decision.



Sean Lane and Steve Marley show just what it feels like to be back in the CCSL





max performance



SIMPLY SOCCER *picks*  
*six stars of the future to*  
*watch for during the next*  
*CCSL season.*

*Players who have what it*  
*takes to make it to the top.*



## FIVE OF THE BEST



top : Darren Iocca  
left : Mark Viduka  
right : Ante Milicic  
below left : Vas Kaleroraccos  
below right : Luke Casserley





# TOM TO THE TOP

## PAUL GOODWIN REPORTS

After a six week trial period, Auburn United's promising 20 year old defender, Tom Bazdaric, has signed a 2 year contract with South coast NSL club, the Wollongong Wolves.

It's a move which suits the tall young man who had been in outstanding touch throughout the last two winter season with his NSW 1st Division club and was looking for an NSL berth at the first opportunity.

Bazdaric and his elder brother, Petar, 21 both benefited from some previous experience in the NSL Youth League ranks but neither was able to break through into the senior sides.

While Petar spent two years at Sydney Croatia and Sydney Olympic and has now retired from the game, Tom had just the one season with Sydney Croatia two years ago which produced nothing in the way of progress for this talented player.

Bazdaric had been a permanent member of the Macarthur reps and Youth League teams since joining that Association's top ranks from local club, the Camden Tiger, where he was a junior from the age of eight.

Having begun his soccer in the Blacktown area in Churches competitions, the

family's move to their current abode at Theresa Park, in the rural area around Camden, then saw the boys link with the nearby Tigers. Tom was a striker and at one stage also a goalkeeper, in his early days.

His father Ivan was his first coach and went on to coach the Macarthur teams too, his sons deriving much from this arrangement.

Tom, who also has a 16 year old sister Kristina - herself a talented netballer in the NSW side - has received great encouragement from his parents. His mother, Elke, originally from Germany and dad, Ivan, who hails from Croatia have been very supportive.

It was perhaps for sentimental reasons as much as anything that Tom joined Sydney Croatia a couple of summers ago when his Youth League days at Macarthur came to an end.

It seemed logical for the 17 year old to try the NSL in the warmer season with his brother already involved and his father's background.

But it was a disappointing time for the boy who only managed about three games in the youth team and never settled down.

He instead decided to try the NSW Super League with Southern District, who went on to become Auburn a year later.

He had a year in the reserves there with a few first grade opportunities under Mike Johnson, but accredits much of his rapid progress to Rene Lillo who was looking after the reserves at Auburn at the time.

Lillo's many ideas rubbed off

on Bazdaric who became an immediate first grade selection when Lillo took over the first team at the start of 1992. Through Lillo left in mid-season to be replaced by Tom Mihajlovic, who was in turn replaced by Ron Cory, Bazdaric became ever-present in Auburn side for the next two season.

He was voted Player of the Year in 1992 and impressed may when he switched form right back to stopper last season.

After consultation with his father, Bazdaric decided the time was ripe to have another stab at the NSL and approached Wollongong for a trial in last August this year. Knowing that Wolves boss Dave Ratcliffe had a good reputation for giving youth a chance, Bazdaric was keen to play there.

He also felt it was an advantage that he would not be judged on his lack of achievement at Croatia, since no one in the Wolves camp knew him as a player.

Tom quickly showed his value to the side, slotting in straight away as one of the centre backs in Ratcliffe's team which took part in the Multiquip Cup and he featured in three of the four matches in that series.

It was particularly satisfying to score a goal in the 3-1 win over Marconi at Marconi Stadium. Scoring goals is something he relishes, though it is not a prime consideration of his.

At Auburn he had been noted for an ability to score vital goals when joining in late attacking sorties to save or win matches at the death.

His heading ability and tim-

ing were both highly regarded at the 1st Division club.

He has also played in the two NSL Cup games against Parramatta Eagles and though stretchered off towards the end of the first leg match backed up a few days later without any evident discomfort to hold his place in the backline for the second leg. His marking role is one he enjoys and he expresses a desire to improve a personal game which is already strong in the areas of fitness and speed, he feels, but needs work in gaining extra vision. He acknowledges that a good attitude is essential and few would argue that he possesses that.

"I'm not a glory-seeker," he insists, "but I am ambitious." "Naturally I would like to play for my country and go as far in the game as I can."

"Signing the two year contract with Wollongong has given me recognition at last, after the earlier disappointment."

"I still want to be accepted as a good player and will continue to work hard on my game," Bazdaric continued. "I'm really looking forward to the Steel-City derby at Brandon Park on Friday 21st October when we play the Newcastle Breakers. I know my place in the side is not certain yet, but I'm confident of holding one of the defensive spots for the big match," he enthused.

His travels for training involves a two hour round trip and he is committed to his studies and working as a fully qualified carpenter for his father, in the family business. His primary aim outside soc-



# AT THE "GONG"

## *Bazdaric's meteoric rise*

cer is to further his building industry qualifications and the Wollongong University course keeps him busy, with six hours of homework in addition to a full day on campus.

With his work and study, together with the soccer three nights a week, there is little time left for outside activities.

Tom has had girlfriends before, but such relationships did not fit in well with his emerging soccer career.

"It wasn't that soccer came between me and the girl. It was the other way round!" he joked.

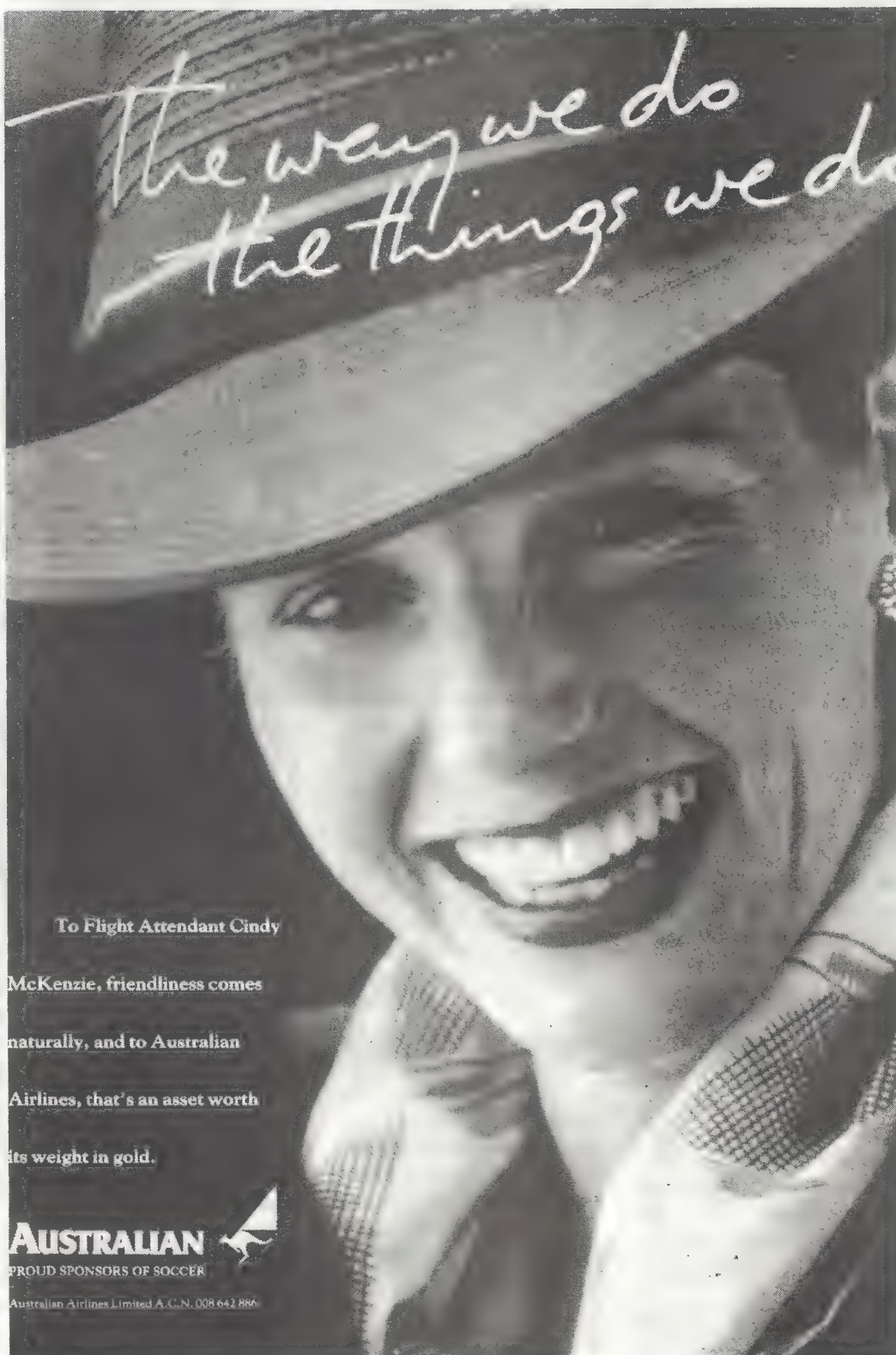
He spends any free time he has taking an interest in prestige cars and especially sound systems. He uses his long hours in his own car to advantage listening to his favourite music and keeping up to date with the latest developments in sounds technology.

His pride and joy is a 3 year old white Corolla SX hatchback, a sporty model he derives much pleasure from driving.

He is looking forward to the extra travelling the NSL will bring and hopes to make an impression on the national selectors with his performances in the Red and White. His former club Auburn were happy to do business with Wollongong and Bazdaric himself was satisfied with the terms agreed upon.

He recognised that a bigger club might have offered more, but was grateful for the chance to prove himself over the next two seasons.

His progress will be watched with great interest this summer.




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# N.S.W. FINISH SEASON

David Cooper reports on the gala presentation



named Club Champions for 1993.

Blacktown's coach Ken Schembri celebrated being named NSW SF Coach of the Year, by being named Coach of a NSW Select side to play a Korean University side next month.

"It is a big honour for me and a challenge I am looking forward to immensely," said Schembri.

One facet of the night that pleased federation officials, was the attendance of so many clubs from the lower divisions, which in other years was not as high.

"The lower divisions are an essential part of the NSW Soccer Federation's setup, and it was great to see so many of these clubs turn up for the night," said NSW SF President Mr. Peter Gray.

"These are the clubs of the future and this is the only

The New South Wales Soccer Federation's 1993 season came to a close last Friday night at the lavish Marconi Club, with the Annual Gold Medal Presentation Night. An 800 strong audience, were on hand to see John Pillemer and Blacktown come away as the big winners on the night.

Pillemer, the 1992 Gold Medal winner repeated his win of last year by convincingly defeating all his opposition to win the 1993 award. Blacktown on the other hand walked away with six awards, four premiership trophies and two individual awards.

Pillemer's win was only the second time that a player had

won back to back Gold Medal's with Sebastian Giampaolo doing the double back in 1988 and 1989.

He was also only the fourth person to have won the medal twice with John Watkiss (1971/1977) and John McDonald (1973/1975) the other's to achieve the same feat.

Pillemer led the counting right from the start, maintaining a significant gap between himself and his challengers. With six rounds to go, Pillemer was four points ahead of Canterbury Marrickville's experienced defender Spiro Hantzis, while last years 1st Division Best and Fairest Player Adam Kwasniewski was a further point behind.

Pillemer maintained the four point advantage over Hantzis, with Canberra Deakin striker Tony Lemezina sneaking into third spot.

"Only two weeks I signed for Melbourne BUSC in the Coca-Cola Soccer League, so it has been a good year of me," said an elated Pillemer. The Super League's other big award, the Players Player of the Year saw Blacktown City defender Scott Ashton come away with a well deserved win.

In accepting the award he dedicated it to his team mates.

Blacktown also carried away with them, the three Super League premiership trophies as well as the honour of being



N.S.W. Sports Minister, Chris Downy announces the Player of the Year time in the year they can mix with the so called "big boys", so good luck too them," he added.

With the attendance being so high, the Federation may have to look at a bigger venue in the future.



# IN A BLAZE OF GLORY

## SCHEMBRI SHINES

38 year old Blacktown City coach Ken Schembri celebrated ten season association with the Demons in fine style when he was named 1993 Super League Coach of the Year at the New South Wales Soccer Federation's Gold Medal Presentation night last Friday at Club Marconi.

Later in the evening New South Wales Soccer Federation President Peter Gray announced, to Schembri's delight, that he had been chosen to oversee a New South Wales U/23 represen-



tative side in early November.

In accepting the award Schembri paid tribute to his coaching staff and his first grade team.

"We have a strongly bonded club at Blacktown where the U/18 and U/21 players are not alienated from the seniors," Schembri admitted.

While accepting that harmony within the club was made significantly easier with a run of 16 games with-



*Blacktown City celebrate*

out defeat Schembri made no secret of his intentions for the 1994 season.

"You can't sit still. Every team needs to build by promoting opportunities for youngsters and possibly adding a new signing to the squad."

And in a moment of justified confidence the successful coach who enjoyed unprecedented success in 1993 predicted that Blacktown could now dominate the Super League for years to come.

In trying to extricate the secrets behind the Schembri formula the affable Schembri admitted that he had taken many of the strengths of former coaches and amalgamated them with his own individual style.

"Basically I run the team as a business."

"The players are given a set of objectives and they are asked to contribute to those to the teams benefit."

To that particular and Schembri was pleased at

achieving the success over 26 rounds in the league. The Waratah Cup was a bonus and the Grand Final, although it hurt to miss out on the treble, would have been nice.

In times of economic uncertainty the business priority Schembri applied to the running of his team was definitely right for the times.

"We decided on flat rate budgeting where players received a set amount each week."

"That way you know what you're going to spend and I saved the club 33% on outgoings in soccer wages from previous years."

"The bonuses provided by the New South Wales Soccer Federation were distributed back to the players after success in two of the three major competitions which was icing on the cake for those involved."

"In the overall scheme of things Blacktown were probably 5th or 6th in players

wages."

It certainly does speak wonders for a club that was described by Blacktown Officials as one that "works together, plays together and drinks together".

In a year of many celebrations Schembri felt that the round of matches that saw Blacktown crowned the Champions in all three grades as a highlight.

Other highlights for Blacktown City in the recognition of players in 1993 were:

**KEN SCHEMBRI - NSW SF 1993 COACH OF THE YEAR**

**SCOTT ASHTON - NSW SF 1993 PLAYERS PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**JASON CONNELLY - BLACKTOWN CITY PLAYER OF THE YEAR (1st Grade)**

**SHANE JARVIS - U/21 BEST AND FAIREST**

**JASON ZLOMISLIC - U/18 BEST AND FAIREST**

**RANDALL EASTHORPE - CLUBMAN OF THE YEAR**





# Steve Darby's

Steve Darby is a former English professional football player, and coach. He is currently National Development Officer for the Australian Soccer Federation. If you would like any information on junior soccer or any of the articles contained in this column, you can contact Steve, or any of the State Development Officers, by writing to; the Australian Soccer Federation, 23 Frederick Street, Rockdale, NSW.

## So You Want To Be A Coca-Cola Socceroo?

by Steve Darby

A.S.F. National Development Officer

"Mum, Dad, I want to play for Australia, I want to be a Coca-Cola Socceroo!"

That is the phrase which more and more parents are hearing from their young boys (and girls) who love the game of soccer.

So how does this process of going from a kid in the street to a Coca-Cola Socceroo happen?

It would be easy to answer with the cliches, that they need "good genes", "lots of practice", "be in the right place at the right time", "have a good coach".

Of course there is an element of truth in all of the cliches.

However, the Australian Soccer Federation believes that a player is far too important to leave to a series of ad hoc processes, where a talented player may be lost to the game, or not fulfill their true potential.

All young players start their soccer life playing RooBall, which is the Australian Soccer Federation national modified game.

This game is based around the philosophies of maximum

participation, equity, skill acquisition and fun. The latter being a vital factor in ensuring that a young player develops a true love of soccer, because if you don't love the game, you will never be good enough to make a living out of it.

Fabio Capello, coach of A.C. Milan, watched a RooBall exhibition before the Coca-Cola Socceroo match against his club and said; "This is fantastic, we are trying to do the same thing in Italy. the kids have more kicks of a ball, they must

become better players."

Once the players graduate from RooBall they enter the heart and soul of soccer in Australia which is the club system. For the vast majority of players the club system goes from cradle to grave and a player can achieve years of satisfaction, friendship and excitement.

However, for those with the desire to be a Coca-Cola Socceroo, there is a clear ladder to the top.

That ladder ensures that on the way to becoming a Coca-Cola Socceroo, a young player gets quality coaching and the appropriate level of competition.

Of course there will always be exceptions, such as the late developer, and the system is always flexible so that every player gets a chance to make it.

The new addition to the ladder is the inclusion of State based Centres of Coaching, and Intensive Training Centres. Mike Wells, National Coaching Director, describes these:

"For some time the Australian Soccer Federation has been looking at establishing a clear player pathway which will not only stimulate aspiring young players but perhaps more importantly provide far better opportunities than have hitherto existed.

"Only sixteen to eighteen players at one time can be members of either the Australian Youth team, the Under 17s or the Australian Institute of Sport squads.

"The establishment now of

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# JUNIOR SOCCEROOS

a National Intensive Training Centre (ITC) Programme means that every State may have a selected squad undergoing better coaching and overall development preparation.

"The Australian Soccer Federation acknowledges the great support of the Australian Sports Commission in the recent establishment of a national network which will cater for between 130-160 players annually.

"This group will be developed with the long term view of lifting the playing standards right across the board.

"More importantly, however, in the short term these elite young players will have their targets set on making the National Under

17 team and then possibly a full place at the AIS.

"The feeder system to the State ITCs will be State Centres of Coaching. These will be established at a regional level and will provide for better opportunities to over 2,000 young players annually.

"Certainly this new structure will go a very long way to enhancing the playing abilities of players at all levels through the various developmental stages.

"The key to the whole National Plan will be in the appointment of appropriate staff which will throw great responsibility on the guardians of the game - the State Federations.

"Providing everyone plays their part in a unified manner then the future of Australian

soccer looks very bright indeed."

So, a young player can now climb to the top of the soccer ladder, but perhaps the best

advice to the young player is play as often as you can, watch the game, read about it and most of all, learn to love it.

## NAME THE PHANTOM -

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**Q. WHO IS THE NEWCASTLE STRIKER ON THE BALL FOR THE COCA-COLA SOCCEROOS AGAINST CROATIA**

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**Stadium:**  
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**Club Telephone/FAX**  
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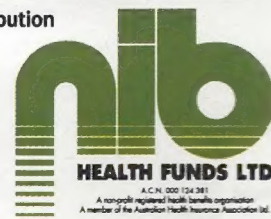
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